
Communications Update: Ozone Mapping and Implementation Information Sources

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Ozone Mapping and Real-Time Air Quality Data

- New ozone and PM air quality standards were based on new information related to health studies on the effect of these pollutants on individuals
- Historically, when an air quality episode occurred, the public were often not aware of the event until after it was over
- Real-Time data and Forecasting gives the public current air quality information in conjunction with specific health impacts and appropriate actions to avoid exposure

What is the Ozone Mapping Project?

- **A collaborative effort between EPA and State and Local Air Agencies to collect, quality assure, and transfer real-time air quality information to the public**
- **Initiated in 1997 in the Northeast US and expanded in 1998 to cover 21 States and the District of Columbia**
- **Supported by the Presidential Initiative known as EMPACT (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) or "Community Right-to-Know"**

Providing the Maps to the Public

■ INTERNET

- www.epa.gov/airnow

■ WEATHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Major effort in '98 with the 4 major Weather Service Providers to get the maps on TV
- Appears that 3 out of 4 are interested and will provide the maps to their stations in 1999

What's Next (FY-99)

- **Expansion of mapping program to other States**
 - **Adding 15 States in the Southeast, Southwest, and Western US**
- **Outreach**
 - **National Weather Service Providers**
 - ▶ **local television broadcasts**
 - **The Weather Channel**
- **National ozone mapping effort within 3-4 years**
- **Inclusion of other real-time pollutants**

Web Addresses

- **www.epa.gov/airnow**
 - real-time ozone maps and related information
- **ttnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov/implement**
 - information related to EPA's implementation strategy and rules and guidance documents
- **www.nature.nps.gov/ard/parks/grsm/lookRockWeather.htm**
 - current visibility conditions at Great Smoky Mountains National Park